

VII.—*Corrected Character of the Genus Cuvieria of RANG, and notice of a second species inhabiting the Tropical Indian Ocean. By W. H. BENSON, Esq. B. C. S.*

In my catalogue of Pelagian shells, vol. iv. p. 176, I mentioned that the capture of perfect specimens of the Pteropodous genus *Cuvieria* would enable me to correct the characters given by RANG, in his Manuel, from shells met with in the imperfect state in which they are usually found. I now redeem the promise implied in that communication. The following is the corrected character.

Cuvieria (RANG). Testâ symmetricâ, anticè subcylindricâ, posticè elongato-conicâ, apice acutissimo, medio septo tenui, imperforato, concavo, versus apicem convexo, concameratâ; aperturâ suprâ depressâ, subcordiformi.

RANG gives as a character “ le côté opposé à l’ouverture fermé par un diaphragme convexe à l’extérieur, non terminal, étant débordé par les parois du cylindre;” and this is the general appearance of the shell, which in the numerous specimens captured by us, was, with the exception of two individuals belonging to the smaller species hereafter described, defective in the conical termination. One of these two, taken in my tow-net, I broke on extracting the animal; the other, which was secured by Lieut. HATTON, H. M. 62nd regiment, was kindly presented to me by him.

The ordinary condition of *Cuvieria* appears to be analogous to the truncation observable in *Bulimus decollatus*, and in some of the *Melania*, in which the part excluded by a diaphragm is liable, from the loss of vascular connexion with the inhabited part of the shell, to become brittle and deciduous.

The larger species, *C. columnella* of RANG, the only recent one hitherto observed, is that which is most widely distributed, and was met with by us in the Southern Atlantic, as well as in the Southern Indian Ocean. The range of the smaller species, which differs in being about half the length of the other, and in being somewhat more depressed, and more ventricose laterally, appears to be more confined. I shall describe it from its resemblance, in its ordinary mutilated state, to a grain of rice, as

C. Oryza. Testâ lævi, intidâ, depresso-cylindrica, lateribus versùs septum ventricosioribus; apice elongato, peracuto.

Length $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch, of which the spire occupies nearly one-half. Taken, from the 15th December, 1834, to the 1st January, 1835, in a tract of the Tropical Indian Ocean contained between the parallels of 8° 6' south and 5° 0' north, and between the meridians of 86° 38' and 91° 0' east from London.